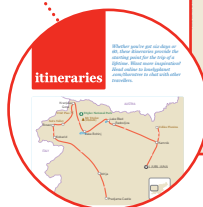


PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

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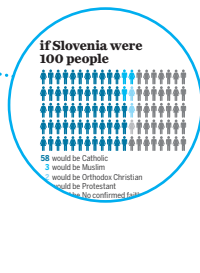
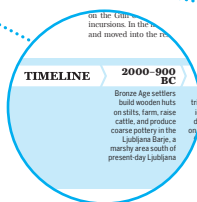


UNDERSTAND SLOVENIA

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

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THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Mark Baker,
Paul Clammer, Steve Fallon

➤ **Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first**

➤ **Look out for these icons:**



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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Slovenia

Vršič Pass

Zigzag through scenic Alpine peaks (p92)

Mt Triglav

Join locals scaling Slovenia's highest mountain (p97)

Soča River

Raft the Soča from Bovec, adventure central (p100)

Lake Bled

Behold this emerald green lake and picturesque castle (p76)



Top Experiences >





OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Mark Baker

Coordinating Author, Plan Your Trip, Ljubljana, Gorenjska Based permanently in Prague, Mark has lived and worked in Central Europe for more than 20 years, first as a journalist for The Economist Group and then for Bloomberg News and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He's a frequent visitor to Slovenia and a huge fan of Piran, Lake Bohinj and Ljubljana, among many other places. In addition to this book, Mark is co-author of the Lonely Planet guides to Prague, Romania and Poland.

Read more about Mark at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/markbaker



Paul Clammer

Primorska & Notranjska, Dolenjska & Bela Krajina, Štajerska & Koroška, Prekmurje, Directory A–Z, Transport Paul Clammer has contributed to over 25 Lonely Planet guidebooks, and worked as a tour guide in countries from Turkey to Morocco. In a previous life he may even have been a molecular biologist. His first experience of Slovenia was a gloriously bright winter holiday, much of which was spent sitting wrapped up in pavement street cafes in Ljubljana drinking hot chocolate,

and walking on the thick, frozen ice of Lake Bled. Fun, but he was still happy to research this guide in the joys of summer. Find him at paulclammer.com, or on Twitter as @paulclammer.

Read more about Paul at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/paulclammer



Steve Fallon

Understand Slovenia Steve has been travelling to Slovenia since the early 1990s, when almost no one but the Slovenes had ever heard of the place. Never mind, it was his own private Idaho for over a decade. Though on *še govori slovensko kot jamski človek* (he still speaks Slovene like a cave-dweller), Steve considers part of his soul to be Slovenian, and returns as often as he can for a glimpse of the Julian Alps in the sun, a dribble of *bučno olje* (pumpkin-seed oil) and a dose of the 'dual'.

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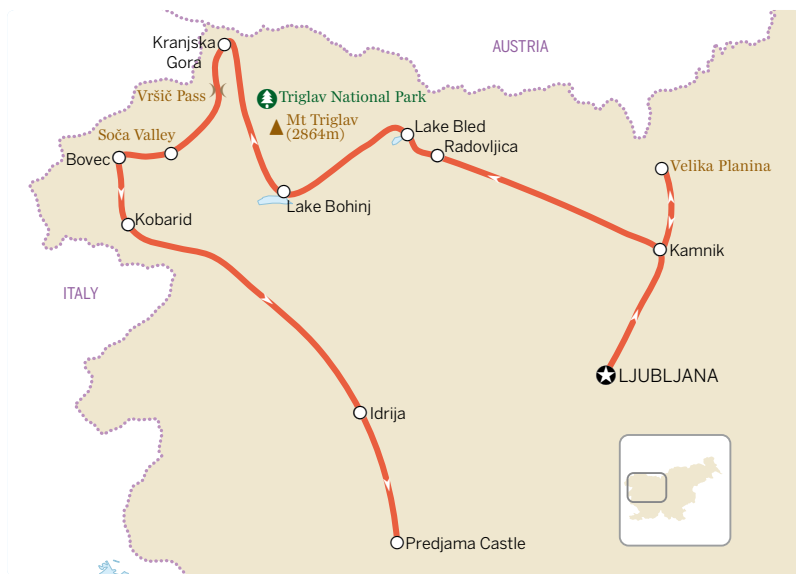
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itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide the starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



One Week Mountain Majesty

Slovenia has mountains in spades. From Ljubljana to Predjama Castle, this itinerary is perfect for active travellers looking to make the most of their time.

Begin in **Ljubljana**, where you can buy any hiking gear you might need and bookstores stock excellent regional maps. From **Ljubljana**, make your way to **Kamnik** and the picturesque, high-altitude pastureland of **Velika Planina**. Then head back toward Kranj and continue north to impossibly cute **Radovljica**. Overnight here or a few kilometres north at **Lake Bled**.

Use Bled or nearby **Lake Bohinj** for forays into **Triglav National Park**. Both are popular approaches for scaling **Mt Triglav**. Proceed northward to the ski centre **Kranjska Gora** and the heart-stopping **Vršič Pass**. (Note the pass is closed in winter.) The road down deposits you in Primorska's **Soča Valley**. Following the Soča River will bring you to the activities centre of **Bovec** and the WWI battlegrounds around **Kobarid**. From here, head down through Tolmin to **Idrija**. Keep going south and you'll reach stunning **Predjama Castle**.



10 to 14 Days Essential Slovenia

Travellers wanting to experience the highlights of the country's alpine, karst and coastal regions should begin in the country's capital, **Ljubljana**. Allow at least two nights to take in the sights, restaurants and beautiful riverside setting. Drive, train or take the bus north to Lake Bled. If you've got time, stop at one or both of the historic towns of **Škofja Loka** or **Radovljica** on your way.

Lake Bled merits at least a night's stay to allow time to walk around the lake and take a *pletna* (gondola) to Bled Island. Plan for a longer sojourn if you intend to try an adventure outing, like rafting or canyoning.

Lovely **Lake Bohinj**, 26km southwest of Lake Bled and accessible by bus, makes for a more rustic, less touristy base and has the added advantage of direct views to Mt Triglav. Both Bled and Bohinj are good starting points for further exploration of **Triglav National Park**.

Make your way northward to **Kranjska Gora**, the country's skiing capital and another good base for walking and hiking. It's also the northern terminus of the spectacularly beautiful **Vršič Pass**, a high-altitude roadway that can be traversed by car, bus or bike during summer, but is closed to vehicles from November to April.

The Vršič Pass twists and turns for some 50km down to the country's white-water rafting capital of **Bovec**. Overnight here or in nearby **Kobarid**, a pretty town with a Mediterranean feel, amazing WWI history and some of the country's best restaurants.

Continue southward through **Nova Gorica** to the **Vipava Valley**, the centre of the Karst region that stretches southeast to the Croatian border. Little towns here, like **Štanjel** to the west, are rich in olives, ruby-red Teran wine, *pršut* (dry-cured ham) and red-tiled roofs.

Further south, following the main Hwy E70 to the coast near Divača, is the awe-inspiring **Škocjan Caves**, part of an immense system of limestone caves in this region.

From here, it's just a skip to the coastal resorts of **Portorož** and **Piran**. If you're looking for romance, choose Piran; if it's sun and fun, Portorož is the centre of the action.

The return journey to Ljubljana passes through **Postojna**, another amazing cave.



One Week Wine & Spas

Eastern Slovenia is known for both wines and spas. This tour includes the best of each.

Start in **Maribor**, the region's biggest city and cultural hub. Make your way south to the former Roman stronghold and thoroughly charming town of **Ptuj**.

Head east to **Ormož**, for the start of the important **Jeruzalem-Ljutomer** wine district, home to the country's best whites. Walk or hike the wine trail here.

Return to Ptuj and head southwest into another important wine region, the **Haloze Hills**, celebrated for its pinot blanc, sauvignon and riesling. There's a wonderful footpath here, too: the Haloze Highlands Trail.

Head southwest from the Haloze Hills to find atmospheric **Rogaška Slatina**, Slovenia's oldest and largest spa. It's a veritable 'cure factory' with a dozen hotels, treatments and therapies.

To the south stretches another well-known wine region: the Bizeljsko-Sremič area. This region is noted for its medium-dry whites and reds and for *repnice*, which are caves for storing wine. Not surprisingly, you'll find another inviting spa nearby, the **Terme Olimia**. Return to Maribor via **Celje**.

Two Days to One Week Karst & Coast

Combining the best of two worlds – the fun-filled coast and the evocative, sun-baked Karst – this itinerary is designed to be driven, but most major points can be reached by train or bus.

From **Ljubljana** follow the A1 motorway to **Postojna**, then continue to **Divača** and the awesome **Škocjan Caves**. If you have your own wheels, take some R&R at the bucolic oasis of **Lipica**.

Return to Divača and head southwest to **Koper**, an affordable coastal place to stay, then follow the coast to **Izola**, **Piran**, and **Portorož**, with all types of accommodation for different budgets.

To the south along the coast is **Sečovlje** and its famous salt pans, a relaxing antidote to brash Portorož.

A spur road just before the Croatian border crosses the Drnica River and links up with Route 11, which takes you back to Ljubljana. At the Rižana exit, take a detour south for the Karst village of **Hrastovlje** and its wonderful church.

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